



Upbeat!

Autumn 2010

Director's musings:

Dear friends, supporters and colleagues,
It's been quite a term - with plenty of activity and many new students. To all those new students, I trust the beginning of your relationship with the Con has been all that you had hoped; I am always keen to hear how students are going, so please don't hesitate to bring any issues you may have to me. A big 'congratulations' goes to all of our new Small Schools Instrumental Program students for a terrific inaugural *SSIP* term.

In terms of events, two that have stood out particularly so far would have to be the Seniors Week Family Concert on March 28, and *To Belgravia and Bacharach* on April 10.

This year's Seniors Week concert involved 15 ORC student ensembles, the *Innominato* adult string orchestra from Sydney (teaming up with our own senior string ensembles) and, a first ever for Orange, the OYO accompanying dancers from Colour City Danceworks in a selection from Tchaikowsky's *Nutcracker* ballet.



Orange Youth Orchestra with ballerina, Breanna Kingham

To all those students, staff and guest performers involved - my sincere thanks for a terrific event.

This year's Belgravia vineyard Food Week concert was a change from the traditional Opera program; we presented a program of Burt Bacharach songs, with the Orange Symphony Orchestra accompanying our own Kyle Manning, and previous student *and* staff member, Rachael Thoms. The performance was a great success, with the audience becoming very vocal in their appreciation; one special member of the audience, Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, made a point of saying just how much she enjoyed the program, and congratulated all involved.

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned the imminent departure of Holly Manning, our first ever Events and Promotions specialist. Now I'd like to officially welcome Belinda Quince to the role.

Belinda took up the reins a little over a month ago, and has already put her own distinctive stamp of energy and efficiency on the job. Belinda is working three days a week, be sure to say hi if you've not already met her.



Kyle Manning, Graham Sattler, Rachael Thoms and the OSO at Belgravia

Official welcomes also go to our new singing teacher, Samantha Bartholomeusz; and to new Keyboard Team members - Alexandra Raspopova and Lujia Zhang.

One other change for this term relates to our Youth Orchestra program. In Term 2, OYO Wind, Brass and Percussion will rehearse separately from Strings, from 2.15pm to 3.15pm regularly, coming together with the strings for an extra hour for nominated weeks only. Senior Strings will work on OYO repertoire in their normal weekly session, joining WB&P for OYO activities as notified.

Before I sign off for this issue, I do need to mention an unavoidable fee increase for one-to-one lessons, one we've avoided for a couple of years now (since 2008). From the commencement of Term 3 (19 July), the fee for a 30-minute one-to-one lesson will be \$39:00; 20-minute lesson fees will increase proportionately, but those for 45 and 60minute lessons will not change. ORC Ensemble and Musicianship, fees will also remain at current levels.

Do look out for upcoming events, most notably the exotic **7 harps** ensemble (April 20), **Matt Baker Trio** (May 1) and **Symphony in Winter** (July 2), this year featuring our own Alina Zborowski playing the Mozart D Major Violin concerto, *and a surprise...*

As always, feel free to email me with any concerns or suggestions on director@orangecon.org.au, or call Natalie to arrange a time for a chat if you'd prefer.

Graham Sattler

String News

Head of Strings and Artistic Director - Andrew Baker

The string department kicked off the year with the first of our studio concerts. They were well attended and showcased many fine performances – including a performance by staff member Alina Zborowski (Violin), performing the second movement of Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 4. Alina will be performing the complete work with the Orange Symphony Orchestra later this year.

On the weekend of 27 March, ORC was visited by two string orchestras: the Australian National University School of Music Chamber Orchestra, and Innominato Strings from Sydney. These two groups workshoped with ORC's Senior String Orchestra, Ensemble Mystique and Adult Chamber Orchestra. One of the highlights of the weekend was performing Pachelbel's Canon with around 80 players on stage together! Well done everyone!

We have expanded our string programs greatly this year, with involvement in three more school based string programs and the '**Sing & String**' class that will begin in Term 2. We are now in desperate need of more instruments so will be holding the first ever String Department fundraising night! This eclectic concert entitled "*Seduction of Strings*" will be held on **Friday 21 May** and will celebrate the 'romantic' side of string playing. Enjoy performances by ORC's staff, students and ensembles. We'll even showcase local violin-making talent with two local luthiers. Keep an eye out for more information.

Academics, Schools & Keyboard News

Head of Academic Studies and Keyboard - Donna Riles

Jazz Piano Workshop - We are pleased to offer a one hour jazz piano workshop with visiting Sydney pianist, Matt Baker. All ORC piano students are encouraged to attend this extremely helpful and entertaining workshop. Whether you play jazz or not, this will be an inspiring time of listening and learning.

Grapevine Series Concerts -The first *Grapevine* concert on Friday 25 June will feature the piano faculty members, Anne Stevens, Meriel Owen, Ana Castillo, Kyle Manning, Donna Riles and the 2 Yamaha C5 grand pianos! This promises to be another wonderfully entertaining evening on the ebony and ivory.

AMEB Exams - If you are undertaking an AMEB exam this year, term 2 is the term to have your AMEB exam program ready and technical work up to speed. The exam is usually the second week back into term 3. Dates to be confirmed.

Wednesday & Thursday Class - This is a FREE opportunity available to all ORC students. This performance class offers the opportunity to perform in the auditorium on the grand pianos in an encouraging and helpful fashion, and a great help to students who undergo performance anxiety. It would be great to see more pianists taking up this opportunity from week to week. Sign up on the sheets in the Link.

Eisteddfod. Put all your practise to good use by entering yourself in the annual Orange Eisteddfod. A wonderful experience for young players.

Tatiana Kolesova. On Sunday 26 September we are excited to be hosting Russian pianist Tatiana Kolesova for a second time.

WANTED! Young pianists for the Junior Jazz Band. Rehearsals are on Fridays from 4pm.

Musicianship News. Dates for musicianship exams 2010:

- Music Craft - Monday 23 August
- Theory & Musicianship Aural Exams - Tues 24 August
- Theory & Musicianship Written Exams – Wed 25 August

ORC closing date for exam application and payment is 21 MAY.

School News - The Small Schools Instrumental Program is a new initiative in conjunction with the ORC and the Orange Small Schools Association whereby students from outlying schools come to the ORC for tuition on Wednesday afternoons. This program has seen over 40 students enrol for lessons in strings, woodwind, brass, percussion and guitar.

Coming up is the annual **Schools Speck Concert** featuring the work that the ORC does in 20 district schools. This concert is preceded by NSW Regional Conservatoriums Schools Music Week, a week of opportunity for workshops, concerts and professional learning.

The ORC has also recently been involved with the *Musica Viva* in Schools Program, both hosting and delivery workshops to teachers whose schools embrace the concerts program. This years touring groups are *Teranga* (a group whose music comes from West Africa) and the *Humming Birds*, a well-known acapella female vocal ensemble.

Sing & String for pre-schoolers

Coordinator Donna Riles identified a need for such a program, having successfully run Early Childhood Music (ECM) classes which have proven very popular for 1-3 year olds. Children aged 3-5 need a program that bridges that gap between early childhood music and school programs or individual tuition. Sing & String is an enjoyable way to prepare children for more intense programs they may wish to tackle in infants/primary stages. Participants focus on voice development and string instruments, with each 45 minute sessions being split between these two areas of learning. After one year of this program, students should be ready to move on to private tuition on a particular instrument or voice. Classes will run on Thursdays at 11.30am- 12.15pm. For more information contact Admin. 6361 7974 or visit www.orangecon.org.au.

ECM - We have limited vacancies, please call Admin. for details.

Woodwind News

Head of Woodwind - Prem Love

Term 1 2010 was a very busy and successful time for the Ensembles Program.

Three of the five 'Music in the Gardens' concerts were performed by ORC Ensembles and were all very successful. Congratulations to the staff and students involved for all of these events.

Two ensembles that presented full programs at the 'Music in the Gardens' concerts were the Big Phat Jazz Band and the Orange Youth Orchestra. I would like to acknowledge the students of these groups for their good, consistent work throughout the course of the year, as presenting full programs requires a significant preparation period.

The Big Phat Jazz Band continues to develop well and is sounding very solid. Comments from the audience after the band performed were very positive.

The 'Seniors Week Concert' held at the end of Term 1 was also a great success. Many staff commented to me on the smooth running of this concert. Again, congratulations to all staff and students involved in this concert.

The OYO Concerto Competition was held recently and I would like to mention the high calibre of the students who auditioned.

The auditions were held earlier than in previous years, and this will help the orchestra to prepare for the 'Concerto' Concert later on in the year.

For students wishing to audition for next year's Concerto Competition, you may wish to start preparing soon. Auditions will be held at the end of Term 1 next year.

For Woodwind students and families, the AMEB exams are swiftly approaching. Please make use of Wednesday and Thursday Classes in preparing pieces with accompaniment. Also, make sure that Technical Work has been learnt and memorised.

Have a great Term 2.

Brass News

Head of Brass - Gerry Ramage

As we approach the end of Term 1, I can report that the brass department is booming! This term has seen the addition of many new brass students from St Marys primary school, the Small Schools program (under the direction of Donna Riles), as well as new students at the Orange East/Bowen On Track program, Bletchington Public and continued interest from St Josephs, Orange Anglican Grammar and Orange Public School. Many shiny trumpets, trombones and the odd tuba have found their way into the hands of budding young performers.

The Music In The Gardens concerts saw some notable performances involving brass, including the Big Phat Jazz Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble and the Orange Youth Orchestra. Special thanks go to Colin Thompson and Matilda Davis (French Horns), who both drove all the way from Bathurst to help with the Brass Ensemble. Also deserving thanks is Anya McLeod (Trumpet), who stepped in at the last minute for the OYO concert in the gardens to cover for the unfortunate illness of one of our fine brass players.

Tuition is growing exponentially in the Brass Department, to such an extent that we welcome the appointment of Matilda Davis as a fully-fledged tutor, who is now teaching Trumpet and French Horn students every week.

Tip of the month: Good breathing is essential for all wind players, especially brass. If you don't breathe, you die! More importantly, your tone and sound suffer. Try taking a good breath by mouthing the word HOW as you inhale. Take the air in and immediately mouth the word TO as you exhale through formed lips. Improvements in sound quality and articulation will be immediately felt and heard. Simple, really! If you want to know how to play a brass instrument, the words HOW TO will help.

Events

Tuesday 20 April – Seven Harp Ensemble. A unique performance at the Con.

Some people rarely get to see a full-size harp up-close let-alone seven! This enchanting performance of seven full-size concert harps together on stage will be a dramatic sight to see, and an impressive sound to enjoy.

Lead by world renowned harpist, Alice Giles, and supported by ArtsNSW, this concert will treat its audience to both classical and newly commissioned Australian works. 7.30pm Orange Regional Conservatorium. Adult \$25, Concessions \$15, Children under 12 \$10, Family of 4 \$65. Reserve seating tickets from Book City or at the door.

Saturday 1 May – Matt Baker Jazz Trio

Renowned jazz musician, Matt Baker, returns to Orange. This time Matt visits with his own trio, the Matt Baker Trio, after a successful performance at the Orange Civic Theatre last month with Galapagos Duck. Not only is the ORC fortunate enough to have the Matt Baker Trio perform live at our venue on 1 May, they are also offering jazz lovers a weekend of workshops:

Junior Jazz/Big Phat Jazz Band

Friday 30 April, 4.15pm-5.45pm
No charge for members of these bands

Jazz Piano

Friday 30 April, 6pm-7pm
\$10 ORC students, \$20 non-students

Jazz Workshop – all instruments

Saturday 1 May, 2.30pm-4.30pm

\$20 ORC students, \$40 non-students

CONCERT Saturday 1 May 7.30pm**Tickets:** Adult \$25, Concessions \$20

Family of four \$70 Available at the door

Friday 21 May – Seduction of Strings**Fundraiser**

Given the significant growth of our Strings programs – particularly our schools and junior Sing & String programs - we desperately need more violins for these students. The Strings Department will be hosting our first ever fundraising night with 'romantic' performances by ORC's staff, students and ensembles. A fun evening for all to enjoy and support the ORC. Tickets available at the door.

Friday 28 May –**Winter's Eve Adult Ensemble Concert**

The concert where our adult ensembles get to strut-their-stuff!

An opportunity to sit back and appreciate the extraordinary talent of our Symphonic choir and String Orchestra, to name a few.

6.30pm Orange Regional Conservatorium.

Tickets \$8 available at the door

More musings...**Become a Volunteer**

Our volunteer "Friends" of the ORC are always looking for more helpers to assist with ticketing at concerts, canteen service, distribution of posters etc. If you are looking for a small way to give back to your community then this is it! Contact 6361 7974.

Schedule of Events for 2010**April**

10 To Belgravia and Bacharach
20 Seven Harp Ensemble
30 Matt Baker Jazz Band W/shop
30 Matt Baker Piano Workshop

May

1 Matt Baker Jazz Trio Concert
1 Matt Baker Jazz Workshop
21 Seduction of Strings - Fundraiser
28 Winter's Eve Adult Ensembles Concert

June

18 School Spectacular
25 Grapevine #1
26 A Little Symphony proms

July

1 ECM concert – 10.00am
2 Symphony in Winter, Orange
30 Grapevine #2
Official Opening of FrostFest

August

20 Friends - Trivia Night
27 Grapevine #3

September

26 Tatiana Kolesova – piano recital

October

1 Nick Parnell Bach to Brazil – percussion workshop and performance
10 Mental Health Week opening Concert – Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 7.30pm
17 Mental Health week closing Concert – Bloomfield Leisure Centre, 2.30pm

November

12 Concerto (OYO) Concert

December

3, 4 Messiah
11 Farewell 2010 Proms Concert and Friends Fete

Find out more about the ORC, or become a Friend of the ORC at www.orangecon.org.au